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1. There were no Chinese participants in any of the recent battles, but Chinese Communist advisors were observed on many occasions. These advisors fared much better than members of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) forces in the obtaining of food, clothing and luxuries. For example: the DRV troops had to smoke cigarettes made from locally grown tobacco, whereas the Chinese smoked popular American brands. To explain the apparent favoritism to the Vietnamese the propaganda line went approximately like this: "Our neighbors have already fought for and obtained their independence, and when we have succeeded in doing the same, then will be the time when we can indulge ourselves in the same luxuries." This reasoning was accepted by the majority of the Vietnamese. Only a few protested.
2. All DRV troops were paid in rice; each soldier was paid at the same rate without regard to rank. Each single man received 30 kilograms of rice, a wife received 18 kilograms and for each child a family received 8 kilograms. Thus a family of six including four children lived on 80 kilograms of rice a month. Many people borrowed money from friends, others grew vegetables to sell, others sold personal property including jewelry in order to exist.
3. Each soldier received two sets of clothing annually. There was no insignia on the uniforms. Thus a general could not be distinguished from a private by his uniform.
4. Although there has been a great amount of talk about redistribution of property in the DRV area, nothing has taken place. The rich are still rich and the poor still poor.

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5. Currently the piaster ratio is 500 Ho Chi Minh piasters to one Indochinese piaster and 1,500,000 Ho Chi Minh piasters to one tael of gold.

Political Activities in DRV Zones

6. In order to explain new legislation to the people, after passage of a new law, conferences would be held at the local level. At these meetings local government officials and officials of the Communist Party explain the new law. On each occasion the platform of the leaders would be decorated with pictures of Ho Chi Minh, Stalin and MAO Tee-tung. Among the propaganda disseminated at these meetings is a slogan which states that all the problems of the people would be solved by World War III.
7. Rumors in the DRV zone are current that if anything should happen to Ho Chi Minh, he would be succeeded by Truong Chinh.

Health Problems in DRV Zones

8. Medical instruments now being used in the Army are of Russian and Chinese manufacture and of excellent quality. Drugs, although not plentiful, were in adequate supply for present needs. There is, however, a great shortage of medical personnel. In the beginning there were between 15 and 20 doctors associated with the 304 Division. Now only about four remain, the others having returned to the French-controlled zone. Doctors have attempted to train medical technicians in the treatment of common diseases, and over a period of years thirty of these technicians have been trained. However, the situation is not good.
9. The most common disease is malaria.

Communication Routes in DRV Zones

10. Most of the roads are merely footpaths and trails over which people and animals can pass. One road which is usable for mechanized vehicles is the road from Thanh Hoa to Ha Tinh (105-53; 18-20).

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